



BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

“I do not think
that I will ever
reach a stage
when I will say,
‘This is what I
believe.
Finished.’
What I believe
is alive...
and open to
growth.”

~ Madeleine
L'engle



14th Sunday after Pentecost, September 11th, 2022 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

- Rev. John King

**Director of
Music**

- David Debick

**Financial
Secretary**

- Joy Garapic

**Office
Manager**

- Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming ALL of God's children.

*Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place,

Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

RALLY DAY

14th Sunday after Pentecost – September 11th, 2022

Prelude/Gathering Music

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

“For the child who doesn't like speaking in front of others, yet will sing their heart out. For the child who is misunderstood in the playground, yet embraced in a music ensemble. For the child who struggles in the classroom, yet flourishes on the stage. Music is for every child.”

~ Vaughan Fleischfresser

Gathering in God's Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Come! Come, all you who are seeking God. Come! Enter into this place of protection and comfort and discover that God is seeking us!

People: We rejoice to have God find us here, as we come seeking God!

Leader: Come! Come in and experience God's joy when we come together.

ALL: Here in this sanctuary we worship, and meet God!

* **Hymn of Praise:**

Softly and Tenderly

#449, v. 1-2, 4

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See at the portals Christ waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

**Refrain: Come home, come home, all who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling - calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not God's mercies, mercies for you and for me? **(Refrain)**

4. O for the wonderful love Jesus promised, promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned Jesus offers us pardon, pardon for you and for me. **(Refrain)**

(Music: Will L. Thompson, 1880; words: Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.)

* **Invocation: [UNISON]**

**Thank you, O Holy One for this opportunity to meet you in this place of worship.
We come to this new day after a long week, carrying all kinds of feelings, emotions
and expectations. But here, in your presence let your Holy Spirit move us to a
place of rejoicing in which new hopes abound.**

We will celebrate the gift of your caring Spirit. Amen.

* **Pastoral Assurance** (Rev. John)

* **Song of Praise:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

*Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)*

*And on earth be peace to all people,
For God loves us all! (2X's)*

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament Excerpt from Christianity Today



Time with Young Worshippers



Anthem**Come Build a Church**

Medema

*God of Creation, Maker of all things, / We gather in this place to pray.
We do invite you, come now among us; / Come and build your church today.
Refrain: Come build a church with soul and spirit, / come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward; / no house of wood, or glass, or stone.
Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.*

*Let us see the tongues of fire. Let us hear the great wind roar.
Let us know the awe and wonder that we've only glimpsed before.
Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep.
Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.
Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bounds.
Reaching out across the chasms, bringing walls of hatred down.
Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends.
Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends. (Refrain)
Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind;
peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind.
Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night;
like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's gentle light. (Refrain)*

(Words and Music by Ken Medema; Copyright © 1993 and this Arr. © 1995 by Ken Medema Music, ASCAP/Brier Patch Music)

Sermon:**Lost and Found**

Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection:**Amazing Grace**

#547, v. 1-4

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

(Music: Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829; words: John Newton, 1779; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

Dorie Gabor, Phyllis Hassler, Lenore Harris, Bill Toneff, Rose Kaval, Suzanne Patrick, David Pastor, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Betty Kaul, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer: [UNISON]

...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering: (Rev. John)

*** Offertory Hymn:** **We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts.
Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication: [UNISON]**

May our gifts become symbols of our intention to minister with God to serve those in need.

Going with God's Love

*Hymn of Departure

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

(Music: Dutch melody, arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906; words: F. W. Faber, 1854; alt.)



Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

† Benediction (Rev. John)

Postlude:

Postlude--Cantique

Théodore Dubois

Announcements

TODAY'S FLOWERS are provided and dedicated by Allison Colbert and Gayle Jackson, "In celebration of our marriage on September 10, 2022 – woohoo!" 

MUSIC MINISTRY – Practices are every Thursday evening, and the schedule is as follows:

4:30-5pm: **Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble**

5:30-6pm: **Joyful Noise***

7-8:15pm: **Adult Choir**

**Joyful Noise - For those who cannot attend on Thursdays at 5:30, Dave will offer practice during coffee hour.*

Practices for Instrumentalists and the Percussion Group will be scheduled on an as-needed basis, and usually occur on Sunday morning before the service. Please consider participating in one of these groups this fall. It's fun, relaxing, and spiritually rewarding. Contact Dave D. with any questions.

BILL TONEFF VISITS – Our wonderful Bill Toneff, who is 103+ years old, would love to see his friends from BUCC from time to time. We are trying to work out a visitation schedule for Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact Sherrill Witt at 216-244-6916 or sherrill@lollytrolley.com for further information and scheduling.

PORTRAITS OF HOMELESSNESS – Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brecksville is hosting events to raise awareness of the unhoused population in our region. In conjunction with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, there will be a photography exhibit, a featured speaker and LMM's Metro45 Food Truck making an appearance! In honor of "Socktober", they are asking attendees to bring a new pair of socks to donate to the Men's Shelter in Cleveland. This event begins on Sunday, October 2nd, and runs through the 9th. More details are posted on the bulletin board in our lobby – please check there for the schedule of events.

Readings

First Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSV)

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'

Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Readings

Continuing Testament - Excerpt from "John Newton: Reformed Slave Trader," published in *Christianity Today*

John Newton was nurtured by a Christian mother who taught him the Bible at an early age, but he was raised in his father's image after she died of tuberculosis when Newton was 7. At age 11, Newton went on his first of six sea-voyages with the merchant navy captain.

Newton lost his first job, in a merchant's office, because of "unsettled behavior and impatience of restraint"—a pattern that would persist for years. He spent his later teen years at sea before he was press-ganged aboard the H.M.S. Harwich in 1744. Newton rebelled against the discipline of the Royal Navy and deserted. He was caught, put in irons, and flogged. He eventually convinced his superiors to discharge him to a slave ship. He remained arrogant and insubordinate, and he lived with moral abandon: "I sinned with a high hand," he later wrote, "and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others."

He took up employment with a slave-trader named Clow, who owned a plantation of lemon trees on an island off of west Africa. But he was treated cruelly by Clow and the slaver's African mistress; soon Newton's clothes turned to rags, and Newton was forced to beg for food to allay his hunger.

The sluggish sailor was transferred to the service of the captain of the Greyhound, a Liverpool ship, in 1747, and on its homeward journey, the ship was overtaken by an enormous storm. Newton had been reading Thomas à Kempis' ***The Imitation of Christ***, and was struck by a line about the "uncertain continuance of life." He converted during the storm, though he admitted later, "I cannot consider myself to have been a believer, in the full sense of the word."

Newton held Bible studies in his Liverpool home. Influenced by both the Wesleys and George Whitefield, he adopted mild Calvinist views and became increasingly disgusted with the slave trade and his role in it. He quit, was ordained into the Anglican ministry, and in 1764 took a parish in Buckinghamshire.

In 1769, Newton began a Thursday evening prayer service. For almost every week's service, he wrote a hymn. Among those is the well-known hymn "Amazing Grace."

See: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/pastorsandpreachers/john-newton.html>

Special Thanks:

September 11, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Dave Bernard
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: Arthur Cook
Peace Candle: Dorothy Cook
A/V Team: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Allison Colbert &
Gayle Jackson
Snack: Sherrill Witt
Set Up/Serve: Bill Witt
Sherrill Witt
Clean Up: Bill Witt
Sherrill Witt

September 18, 2022

Head Usher: **Volunteer Needed**
Ushers: **Volunteer Needed**
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: Bill Witt
Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: **Volunteer Needed**
Peace Candle: **Volunteer Needed**
A/V Team: **Volunteer Needed**
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: Jon Thompson
Set Up/Serve: **Volunteer Needed**
Clean Up: **Volunteer Needed**
Volunteer Needed

Notes: _____